

What is claimed is:

1. A method of limiting access to a media tray comprising:  
defining a target pass code associated with a media tray; and  
restricting access to the media tray to print jobs associated with job pass  
5 codes having the target pass code.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein defining the target pass code  
includes selecting the media tray and entering the target pass code via a user  
interface.

10 3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the media tray includes  
loading the media tray.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein defining the target pass code  
15 further includes, upon selecting the media tray, requesting a target pass code be  
entered via the user interface.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein defining the target pass code  
includes sensing a characteristic of media in the media tray, and automatically  
20 setting the target pass code based on the sensed characteristic.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a print job  
accompanied by the job pass code.

25 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising, where the print job is not  
accompanied by the job pass code, prompting entry of the job pass code.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein prompting entry of the job pass  
code includes prompting display of a message requesting entry of the job pass  
30 code on a print job originator.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving the job pass code from the print job originator.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving the job pass  
5 code via a control panel associated with the print job originator.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein restricting access to the media tray includes:

comparing the job pass code to the target pass code; and  
10 permitting the print job access to the selected media tray when the job pass code corresponds with the target pass code.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a selection of a media tray from a print job originator;  
15 requesting confirmation of a characteristic of the print job corresponding to the selected media tray; and  
upon receiving confirmation, setting the job pass code to have a predefined relationship with the target pass code.

20 13. The method of claim 12, wherein requesting confirmation of a characteristic of the print job includes broadcasting the characteristic to the print job originator.

14. A system limiting access to a media tray, the system comprising:  
a print job having an associated job pass code; and  
a tray access lock defining a target pass code, wherein the tray access  
lock limits access to the media tray based on a relationship between the job pass  
5 code and the target pass code.

15. The system of claim 14, including an associator configured to  
associate a job pass code with the print job.

10 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the associator identifies a print job  
seeking access to the media tray without a job pass code and requests entry of a  
job pass code via a user interface associated with the media tray.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the user interface associated with  
15 the media tray includes a control panel on a printing device that includes the  
media tray.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the user interface associated with  
the media tray includes a screen prompt on a network terminal in communication  
20 with a printing device that includes the media tray.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the job pass code includes an  
alphanumeric string.

25 20. The system of claim 14, wherein the tray access lock defines the  
target pass code by requesting entry of the target pass code on a user interface  
associated with the media tray.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the user interface associated with  
30 the media tray includes a control panel on a printing device that includes the  
media tray.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the user interface associated with the media tray includes a screen prompt on a network terminal in communication with a printing device that includes the media tray.

5 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the target pass code includes an alphanumeric character string.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the tray access lock includes a comparator configured to determine if the job pass code matches the target pass  
10 code by comparing the character string of the target pass code with the character string of the job pass code, the tray access lock being configured to restrict access to the media tray to print jobs associated with job pass codes that match the target pass code.

15 25. A network device configured to limit access to a media tray, the network device comprising:

a control panel configured to display a menu of device functions wherein the device functions include a tray access lock function; and

20 at least one media tray, wherein selection of the tray access lock function causes the network device to limit the access to the at least one media tray.

26. The network device of claim 25, wherein the tray access lock function includes a pass code function configured to enable a user to set a target pass code that limits access of a print job to the at least one media tray.

25 27. The network device of claim 26, wherein the target pass code enables a print job to access the at least one media tray based on a relationship between the target pass code and a job pass code that accompanies the print job.

28. The network device of claim 27, wherein the job pass code that accompanies the print job is entered on the control panel.

29. The network device of claim 27, wherein the job pass code that  
5 accompanies the print job is entered at a network client.

30. A storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying instructions executable by the processor to:

define a target pass code associated with a media tray; and  
10 restrict access to the media tray to print jobs accompanied by a job pass code having a predefined relationship with the target pass code.

31. The storage device of claim 30, wherein the instructions executable to define the target pass code include instructions to select the media tray and  
15 enter the target pass code via a user interface.

32. The storage device of claim 31, wherein the instructions executable to define the target pass code further include instructions to, upon selecting the media tray, request that the target pass code be entered via the user interface.

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33. The storage device of claim 30, wherein the instructions executable to define the target pass code include instructions to sense a characteristic of media in the media tray and automatically set the target pass code based on the characteristic.

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34. The storage device of claim 30, wherein the storage device further embodies instructions executable to receive the print job accompanied by the job pass code.

35. The storage device of claim 34, wherein the storage device further embodies instructions executable to prompt entry of the job pass code, where the print job is not accompanied by the job pass code.

5 36. The storage device of claim 35, wherein instructions executable to prompt entry of the job pass code include instructions to prompt display of a message requesting entry of the job pass code on a print job originator.

10 37. The storage device of claim 36, wherein the storage device further embodies instructions executable to receive the job pass code from the print job originator.

15 38. The storage device of claim 36, wherein the storage device further embodies instructions executable to receive the job pass code via a control panel associated with the print job originator.

39. The storage device of claim 30, wherein the instructions executable to restrict access to the media tray includes instructions to:  
compare the job pass code to the target pass code, and  
20 permit the print job access to the selected media tray when the job pass code has a predefined relationship with the target pass code.

40. The storage device of claim 30, further comprising instructions to:  
receive a selection of a media tray from a print job originator;  
25 request confirmation of a characteristic of the print job corresponding to the selected media tray; and  
upon receipt of confirmation, set the job pass code to have the predefined relationship with the target pass code.

30 41. The storage device of claim 40, wherein instructions to request confirmation of a characteristic of the print job include instructions to broadcast the characteristic to the print job originator.

42. A printing device having a media input, the printing device comprising:

- means for receiving a target pass code;
- means for receiving a print job requesting access to the media input;
- 5 means for receiving a job pass code associated with the print job; and
- means for limiting access to the media input to print jobs having associated job pass codes which correspond with the target pass code.

43. A printing device having a media input, the printing device comprising:

- a job input configured to receive a print job having an associated job pass code; and
- a controller configured to limit access to media to print jobs with associated job pass codes which have a predefined relationship with a target
- 15 pass code associated with the media input.

44. The printing device of claim 43, wherein the target pass code includes an alphanumeric character string.

20 45. A method of limiting access to a media tray comprising:  
defining a target pass code associated with a media tray; and  
restricting access to the media tray to print jobs associated with job pass codes that correspond with to the target pass code.

25 46. The method of claim 45, wherein restricting access to the media tray includes restricting access to print jobs associated with a job pass code that matches the target pass code.

47. A method of limiting access to a media tray comprising:  
defining a target pass code associated with a media tray;  
receiving a print job requesting access to the media tray;  
broadcasting the target pass code to an originator of the print job; and  
5 selectively receiving confirmation from the originator of the print job,  
wherein the confirmation includes a job pass code that corresponds with the  
target pass code.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the target pass code associated  
10 with a media tray identifies special media loaded in the media tray.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the special media includes  
letterhead.